#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes\_\_\_\_

Property Name: Bacon Hall	Inventory Number: BA-405
Address: 16300 Cedar Grove Road	City: Sparks Zip Code: 21152-9435
County: Baltimore County	USGS Topographic Map: Hereford
Owner: Melvin J. Duckett & Laura Cogar	Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
Tax Parcel Number: 324 Tax Map Number:	28 Tax Account ID Number: (See description)
Project: TEA-21 Viewshed Protection Grant	Agency: Federal Highway Administration
Site visit by MHT staff: X no yes Name:	Date:
Is the property is located within a historic district? ye	s X no
If the property is within a district District Investigation	entory Number:
NR-listed districtyes Eligible districtyes Na	me of District:
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resourceyes	no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes
If the property is not within a district (or the property is a dis	etrict) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yesno
Criteria: X A X B X C D Cons	derations: AB C D E FG_X_ None
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Inventory form prepared by John W. McGrain, Office of	f Planning, January 21, 1992
Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use	continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)
28, parcel 324, but with two separate account numbers (under 2200016447 (212.04 ac.). The mailing address at the time the	e MHT Inventory form was completed was 16300 Bacon Hall 28, the farm abuts the west side of Interstate 83, primarily north of
from which this summary is adapted, is provided in the MHT 200 acres is part of the original 1,036-acre "Bacon Hall" land	rly significant in Baltimore County history. (Full documentation, Inventory form.) The present property consisting of more than grant surveyed in 1772 for Nicholas Merryman, Sr., who Merryman died "at his residence in Baltimore County" in 1801.
was appointed captain the same year in the Upper Battalion of	tutenant of Captain Thomas Moore's militia company in 1777, and Baltimore County. The farm subsequently was inherited by Baltimore County agricultural and social history, and later passed
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
6 , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	y not recommended
Criteria: XAXBXC D Considerations: MHT Comments	A B C D E F G None
Andrew Lewis S	5/28/03
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	5/30/03
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

ND EI	ICIDII	ITY REV	JIEW	FORM

Bacon Hall

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Inventory Number: BA-405

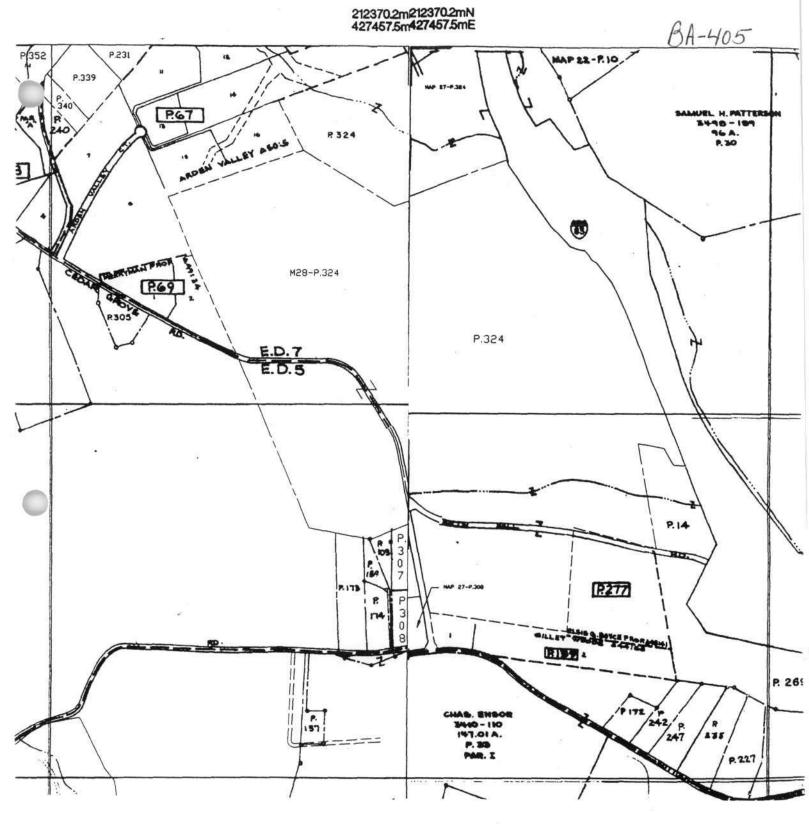
Besides its significance for more than 200 years of continuous agricultural use, the "Bacon Hall" farm is especially important for its original remaining farmhouse. The main, center block of this 2-1/2 story stone structure measures 46' x 23', exactly matching the dimensions specified for the Nicholas Merryman house in the 1798 Federal tax list. The house is almost certainly somewhat earlier, possibly dating from ca. 1790. The evidence from the Nicholas Merryman entry in the 1783 tax list is not conclusive, but the high overall value of improvements on the property – 200 pounds sterling – could allow for a large, five-bay house existing by 1783.

"Bacon Hall" is an architecturally very plain but sturdy survivor of its almost-frontier era, complemented by its two attached, two-story, early nineteenth century wings. With their consistent, flush stonework the house and its wings present an impressive, 10-bay façade, fully 96 feet long. The main block has three gable-roofed dormers set in the southern slope (main façade) of the roof, and a center-hall floor plan. Although dating esentially from the Federal era, the house is a restrained example with little internal decoration. The house has many fireplaces, some with plain wood mantels and others with arched-opening marble mantels of the Victorian era. The stairway rises straight behind the front door, ascending without a bend to the second story. The sturdy newel post of oak or mahogany is typical of rural house designs in Baltimore County.

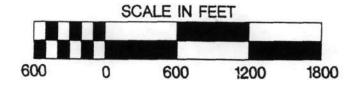
Surviving outbuildings also contribute to the property's historic character. These include a two-story stone barn with dressed quoins and an irregular pattern of door and ventilator openings (probably the 30 x 50 structure on the 1798 tax list), a small stone building (probably the milk house or one of the two meat houses from 1798), and a two-story frame barn (probably late nineteenth or early twentieth century).

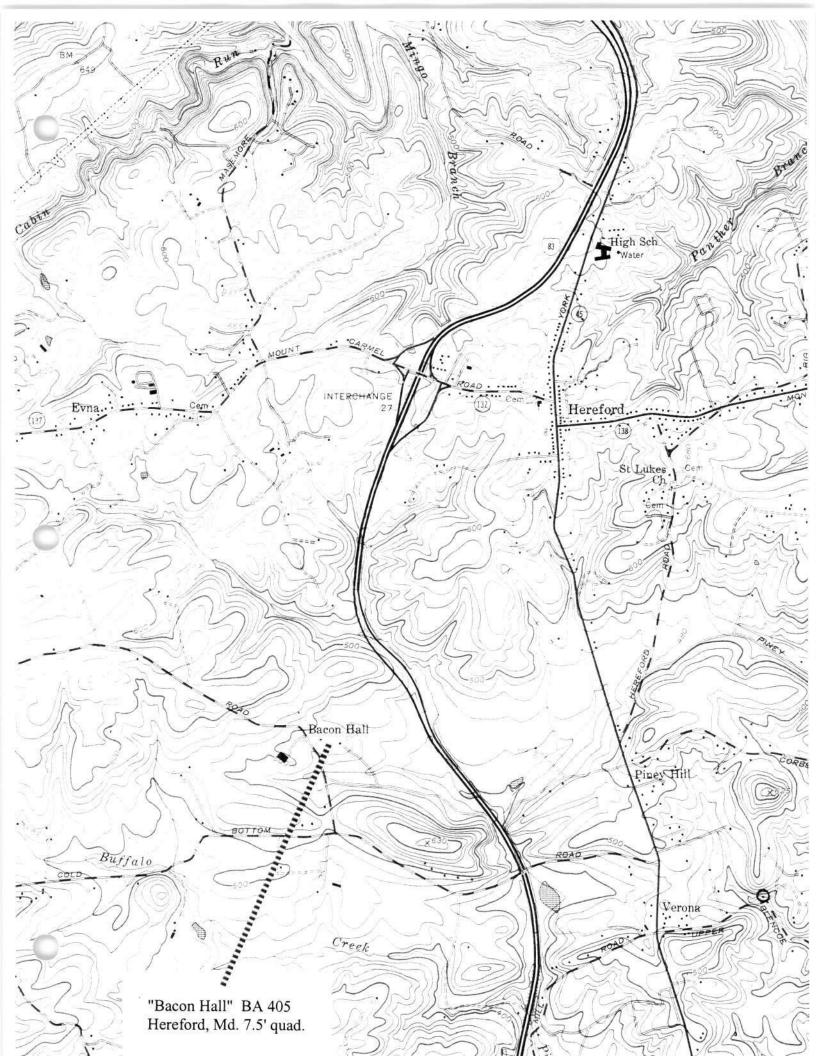
Remarkably, the Bacon Hall house survived a period of extensive physical neglect in the Civil War era, and was rescued and restored into a functional dwelling. Houses of this great antiquity (eighteenth century), and with such a substantial degree of physical historic integrity, are very rare in Baltimore County. Efforts about a decade ago to protect the building by placing it on the County Landmarks List were unsuccessful. The cooperative effort by the owner with the County to achieve permanent protection through the TEA-21 funding should strongly be supported. This not only will protect the historically-important farmstead but also will complement the TEA-21 projects for scenic protection on the opposite side of the highly scenic I-83 corridor, maintaining the contextual integrity of the area's outstanding visual, agricultural quality.

Prepared by:	Tim Dugan, Baltimore Co. Planning	Date Prepared:	05/21/2003	



Source: Tax Maps 27, 28, Dec.'99







BAT Example John . No jon 1 2015

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD SHTO

MAIN HOUSE

1 OF 7



BALTIMORE G. MD

MD SHPO

MAIN HOUSE

2 OF 7



RA405 BACON HALL SHIP STORES

BALTIMORE CO. MD MD SHPO MAIN HOUSE 3 OF 7



BALTIMORE CO, MD

BALTIMORE CO., MD

MD SHPC

SMALL STONE OUTBUILDING

4 OF 7



BA-405 BACONHALL SALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
MD SHPO
STONE BAEN

5 OF 7



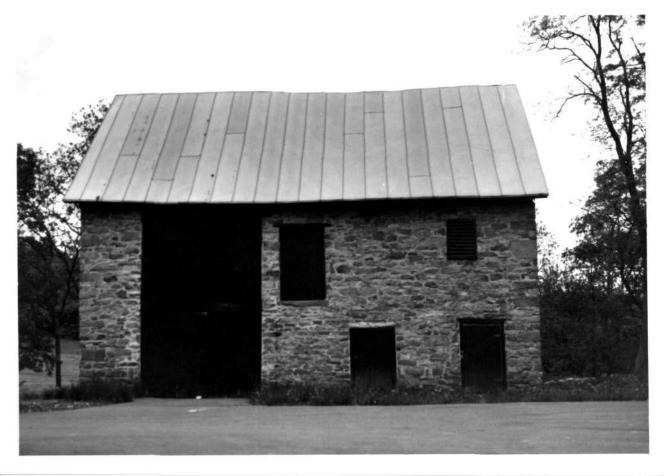
BA-405 BACON HALL

BALTIMORE CO, MO

NID SHPO

FRANCE FRANCE

MID SHPO FRAME BARN 6 OF 7



BALTIMORE CO. MD MD SHPO STONE BARN

BA-405 BACON HALL

7 OF 7

### Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA 405 Magi No. 0304055204

DOE \_yes x no

1. Nam	e (indicate pr	eferred name)		
historic Bacon	Hall			
and/or common	Same			
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	16300 Bacon Ha	all Road	Councilmanic Dist	not for publication
city, town H	Hereford	x_ vicinity of	congressional district	2nd
state M	Maryland	county	Baltimore County	
3. Clas	sification			
Category  district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not_applicable	X occupied  unoccupied  work in progress Accessible  x yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted	Present Use  X agriculture  commercial  educational  entertainment  government  industrial  military	museum park x private residence religious scientific transportation other:
	er of Prope	rty (give names ar	nd mailing addresse	es of <u>all</u> owners)
street & number	1017 701		telephone n	o.: Unknown
city, town	Greenwich	state	and zip code Conn	ecticut 06830
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	on	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc. Cou	nty Courts Building		liber 2655
street & number	401 Bosley Avenu	e		folio 443
city, town	Towson		state	Maryland 21204
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	reys
title Ma	ryland Historical T	rust Inventory		
date 19	81		federalX sta	te county loc
depository for s	urvey records 100 Com	munity Place		
city, town	Crownsville		state	MD 21032-2032

#### /. Description

Survey No. BA 405

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	unaitered X aitered	original site moved date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Bacon Hall is a three-part stone house with a 2½ story center section five bays wide, with two-story wings on either end. The west (left) wing is two bays wide, the east (right) is three bays wide. The house is coated with antique stucco (like Hampton House) scribed in an ashlar pattern while still wet. The main block has three gable-roofed dormers set in the southern exposure (main facade) of the roof. Measurements taken in 1986 show that the main block is 46 feet 6 inches wide. Its kitchen wing is 25 feet 8 inches. The newer wing on the west is 22 feet 6 inches wide. All the sections are 23 feet 2 inches deep. The center block is certainly the 46 by 23-foot structure listed in the 1798 tax list.

The main block has a center-hall floor plan. The main door is set in a plain frame with neither transom nor sidelights. A onestory entrance porch with a second-story open deck stretches across three bays of the main facade. Window frames have prominent lintels, possibly replacements. The window sashes are a mixture of layouts.

The main block has two stone, gable-end, inside chimneys.

Present dimensions are 95 feet, overall width. The 1918 tax ledger gave overall width of 121 feet, based on measurements of two house segments:

22 x 48 22 x 73. (1)

Possibly some frame extension has disappeared.

The house has numerous fireplaces, some with plain wood mantels, others marble mantels of the Victorian era with arched openings. The stairway rises straight behind the front door and ascends without bend to the second story. The sturdy newel post of oak or mahogany is typical of rural house designs in this county.

Bacon Hall is sturdy but very plain. If it dates from the Federal era, it is a restrained example with little internal decoration. The high value of the improvements on this property in the 1783 tax list (200 pounds Sterling) would allow for a large, five-bay house. The main block was definitely in existence by the 1798 tax list.

The grounds contain a stone barn, a frame barn, and some minor outbuildings.

#### NOTE:

1. Baltimore County Tax List, 1918, District 7, f. 433.

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

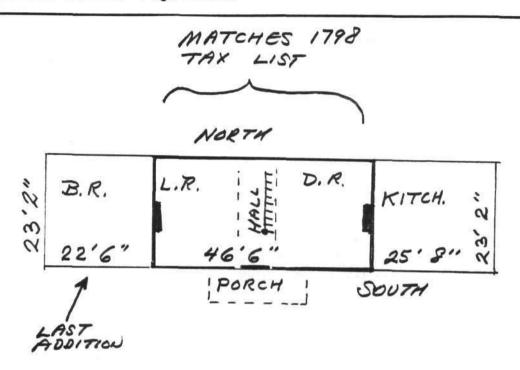
name of

MHT Inventory No.

name of property:

Section number \_\_\_\_ 7 Page \_2\_\_\_\_

Bacon Hall





8. Sign	iticance		Sur	vey No. BA	405
Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—( — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture — architecture — art — commerce — communications	Check and justify belo  community planni conservation economics education engineering x exploration/settler industry invention	ng lands law literat milita musionent philos	ture ry	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	Before 1783	Builder/Architect <sup>U</sup>	nknown ,		
Appl:	icable Criteria:A nd/or icable Exception: l of Significance:	A _B _C _D		_G	
Prepare both support.	a summary paragraph	of significance ar	nd a general	L statement	of history and
Merryman Pasture, improvem Baconame of Nicholas	1783 tax list of with part of the a total of 1,091 ents, a very largent Hall is not onla 1,036-acre land Merryman. (2)	e tract Bacon Ha acres, 19 slav ge sum for that y the name of the grant, "Bacon H	all and all yes, and a period. The house Hall", sur	ll of Mer 200 pound (1) , but als rveyed in	ryman's s worth of o the 1772 for
	tract names inclu		oro acres	in the i	730 car lisc
Pine	n Hall Enlarged Ridge Grove		Better Sar Little Ac Merryman'	count	Lost
The stru	ctures listed tha	at year were:	NAT		
1 St	one dwelling hous	se, 2 stories	23 x	46 feet	
1 St	one kitchen, 1 st	cory	23 x	36	
1 St	one Milk House		12 x	12	
1 St	one Meat House		12 x	12	
1 St	one Meat House		14 x	16	
6 lo	g outhouses, stab	oles, etc.			

30 x 50. (3)

1 Stone Barn

BA 405

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Bacon Hall

Local historian Shirley Clemens estimated the age of Bacon Hall at about 1790, an estimate that seems reasonable because the house is built in a simplified Federal style and would conform to that period. (4)

Measurements taken in May, 1986, suggest that the 23-by-46-foot main block and part of the kitchen wing are the same structures recorded in the 1798 tax list.

The election districts established in 1800 placed Bacon Hall in Old District No. 5. Starting in 1841, it would have been within Election District No. 7, the same subdivisions used in 1992.

Nicholas Merryman, Senior, died "at his residence in Baltimore County", age 76, in 1801. The property mentioned in the will as "Bacon Hall," passed to Nicholas Merryman, Jr. (5)

Francis B. Culver's family history calls the second Merryman "White-headed Nickey of Bacon Hall" (1751-1832). Nicholas Merryman, Jr., was the first lieutenant of Captain Thomas Moore's militia company in 1777, and was appointed a captain the same year in the Upper Battalion of Baltimore County. He was twice married, first to Deborah Ensor, who died in 1801. In 1805, he married his cousin Nancy Merryman, also called Ann. The widow was named as Ann in the 1840 administration account. (6)

The house appears on J. C. Sidney's and P. J. Browne's 1850 county map as "Bacon Hall, Mrs. Ann Merryman." To the east was another farm, Elzes Grove, belonging to N. R. Merryman, that house was later known as "Hereford Farm," (BA 128), a place where the colonial house survived until 1982. That farm had belonged to a number of John Merrymans, later to Nicholas Rogers Merryman, a family that maintained a small cemetery for their own line, none of the Bacon Hall Merrymans being interred there.

Almost nothing historical has been published about Bacon Hall. Not until 1864 is there anything quotable in legal records. The Nicholas Merryman property was divided up by court-appointed commissioners under the Baltimore County Court of Chancery. The large holdings were divided and Bacon Hall was part of "Lot 3" resulting from the case of Elizabeth Scott v. Nicholas Merryman. (7) After the division of the Nicholas Merryman, Jr., estate, the house was allotted to Ellen Merryman and passed to her granddaughter, Elizabeth E. Frisby (Mrs. William M. Pendelton). The Pendelton's daughter, the

BA 405

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Bacon Hall

"infant," and orphan, was Wilhelmina E. Pendelton, represented by her aunt, Ann M. Frisby in the 1864 suit.

In the 1864 case, the ownership had devolved on Wilhelmine E. Pendelton, described as an "infant" and the granddaughter of Nicholas Merryman. Miss Pendelton's guardian sued her in search of a decree that the property could be sold. The court in Towson appointed trustees to dispose of it. The testimony taken in the case speaks of the woeful condition of the place:

Testimony taken from John Philpot....he had managed the estate of the infant's mother....says there are 476 acres worth \$30 per acre....

"It was formerly the property of Nicholas Merryman, Nicholas Merryman of Nicholas, I think, who resided on it about twenty years since and whose whole estate was divided by a commission issued out of the chancery side of Baltimore County Court...this portion was allotted to Ellen Merryman, the grandmother of the child Elizabeth E. Frisby, the mother of the defendant who married William E. Pendleton. The father, mother, and Grand Father and Mother are all dead."

....could so better to sell property and invest the proceeds....

"The buildings are dilapidating and will be a ruin if not attended to soon. The farm to yield a rent must be put at a very low rent for several years to come much lower than at present. The reasons are that the fences are dilapidated, the lands are being exhausted by constant cultivation, and part of them submerged for want of ditching. I suppose there are three hundred acres of tillable land, beautifully exposed for farming purposes. The balance is in wood that has been amazingly culled and the rest in swamp. (Their mother had instructed him to sell the property for \$30 per acre...almost closed a sale before her death...)"

Testimony of John M. Gorsuch:

Gorsuch believed that the "rent will not produce 2 per cent return...there is no improvement to improve it.... The buildings and fences are becoming dilapidated and

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name of property:

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Bacon Hall

going down. The soil is becoming exhausted, and the place is going down. I should suppose that there is some three hundred acres of tillable land or such as could be tilled all would not pay to till it. The balance is grown up in pines and wood and all the woods has been more or less culled over."

Henry N. Merryman (of Hereford Farm) testified:

"It is called part of Bacon Hall and part of Cold Bottom ....the buildings, the barns, stables are all to pieces, part of the dwelling house is falling down, and the fences throughout the whole place need thorough repairing. The soil is going down and the parties who live on it can hardly raise corn on it to last one third of the season.

The soil has been very much worked down and is becoming rapidly exhausted. I do not think the property in a short time will rent for one per cent of what it would sell for .....[It adjoined Merryman's own residence & property]"

George Childs testified:

"Mrs. Merryman told me there was 437 acres in Bacon Hall and 50 acres in Cold Bottom... (he would not want to pay more than \$150 a year for it) I rented it at about \$175 a year and was not able to pay that....

...I think so because the place is reduced so and is still going down. The buildings are in a very poor condition, the cellar wall is giving way now. The floors are all decaying and nearly rotten and decayed and all going to pieces. The soil is getting worked down, it is very thin at this time. I left the place about two years ago this spring." (8)

The court-appointed trustees set several sale dates and took four years to find a buyer. Their advertisement in the summer of 1864 offered the tracts Bacon Hall, Elzey's Grove, and Cold Bottom. (9) 427 acres in all.

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a "handyman's special":

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When the sale set for July 28, 1864, failed to produce a buyer, the same advertisement was published in February the following year, shortened by leaving out the very long text of the metes and bounds. (10) Neither advertisement suggested the run-down condition discussed in the court room: just the faintest hint that the farm was

Bacon Hall

Trustee's Sale of one of the Most Valuable Farms in Baltimore County

The undersigned as Trustees offer at PRIVATE SALE, the

"BACON HALL" FARM

Situated in Baltimore County CONTAINING 476 ACRES, more or less.

This property is situated on the York Turnpike, twenty miles from Monkton Station, on the Northern Central Rail-way, adjoining the finely improved estate of Nicholas B. Merryman. About 200 acres are Wooded, and the balance arable land of kind quality, not less than 150 acres of which are level and very productive.

There is an excellent quarry of limestone on it and a kiln convenient.

The DWELLING HOUSE is of stone, 50 by 25 feet, with commodious wings. It is handsomely situated in a healthful and beautiful valley, and can readily be made one of the most desirable and productive estates in the county. There is a good Barn on the property and other necessary outbuildings, and is well watered.

Terms of sale . . . .

JOHN PHILPOT JOHN T. ENSOR, Trustees

Feb. 25.tf

BA 405

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In May, 1868, Matilda M. Rhett, wife of Charles H. Rhett, and Julia L. Rhett, wife of Roland Rhett, bought Lot 1, the 2,360½-acre house parcel for \$9,300. (11) The G. M. Hopkins atlas of 1877 showed the home of H. Rhett with two other Rhett family houses nearby. No estate name was given.

Bacon Hall

There were a number of complex deeds and trusteeships during the 1880s and various members of the Thomas family had the place. Under the will of Lambert Gittings, the property passed in 1895 to Mrs. Louisa Gillet. The property has remained in the related Gillet and Boyce families down to the present. (12) Nearby Gillett Road was only recently renamed Cedar Grove Road. (13) The neglect mentioned in the 1864 court action was staved off and Bacon Hall and its farm were the scene of horse breeding and sporting events.

In the 1980s, the ownership devolved on one person, Mrs. Kelsey, a Boyce by birth. An out-of-state resident, she has been trying to market the house for a number of years. The house is occupied by a reliable tenant, Mr. Michael Jacobson (472-4551). (14)

During 1990 and 1991, there was interest inside the county administration to buy Bacon Hall for parkland and school purposes. Later, opposition developed and funding became inadequate for the purchase. (15)

The most recent word was:

The county will abandon for the moment its plant to purchase the \$1.9 million Bacon Hall property in Sparks for parkland. (16)

#### NOTES:

- 1. Tax List of Middle River Upper and Back River Upper Hundred, 1783, folio 10.
- 2. Patents, Index Cards, Hall of Records, Annapolis, supplied by telephone, January 16, 1992. "Bacon Hall Enlarged," surveyed in 1794 for Nicholas Merryman, was 1,674-34 acres.

Maryland Historical Trust/
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Continuation Sheet

name of property:

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Bacon Hall

- 3. Tax List, Middle River Upper Hundred, 1798, Entries No. 1009 and 1286, microfilm at Office of Planning.
- 4. Shirley E. Clemens, Corbett, Md., to John McGrain, 1985, personal communication.
- 5. Baltimore American, July 20, 1801. Baltimore County Wills, 6:443.
- 6. Francis B. Culver, "Merryman Family," Maryland Historical Magazine, 10 (September, 1915): 286. Also, Federal Gazette, November 25, 1805, and American, March 10, 1832.
- 7. Baltimore City Chancery Records, TK 22:210. John Philpot, a witness and trustee, testified that he could not find the cited land commission records in Baltimore City.
- 8. Baltimore County Judicial Records, Towson, EHA 27:305-309.
- 9. Baltimore County Advocate, June 18, 1864.
- 10. Maryland Journal, Towson, February 25, 1865.
- 11. Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 58:579.
- 12. Baltimore County Deeds, LMB 212:453.
- 13. The Alexandria Drafting Company atlas for 1981 still showed Gillett Road (with two T's).
- 14. O'Conor, Piper & Flynn, <u>Distinctive Properties</u>, Spring-Summer 1986, p. 7. Advertisement in <u>Sun Magazine</u>, November 15, 1987.
- 15. Larry Carson, "Councilman Opposes School at Bacon Hall," <u>Evening Sun</u>, October 9, 1991. Also, Lou Panos, "County Purchases Up in the Air, Budget Axe Falls on Parkland," <u>Towson Times</u>, August 7, 1991.
- Jay Doyle, \$2 Million in Service Cuts Set," <u>Towson Times</u>, January 15, 1992.

Trustee's Advertisement, Maryland Journal, Towson, August 12, 1865

#### **Geographical Data** 10. 195.0 Acreage of nominated property Hereford 1:24,000 Quadrangle name Quadrangle scale UTM References do NOT complete UTM references Zone Easting Zone Verbal boundary description and justification Irregular parcel west of I-83, north of Bacon Hall Road, east of Cedar Grove Road. See Tax Map 28, Grid 7, Parcel P4. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state county N/A N/A code code state county code Form Prepared By 11. John McGrain name/title Office of Planning January 21, 1992 organization date 401 Bosley Avenue 887-3211 telephone street & number Towson Maryland 21204 city or town state **ROSS VALLEY FARMS BACON HALL** "HEREFORD PINEY HILL 2 CHESTERFIEL COLD

